

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This letter is responsive to the Office Action dated February 9, 2006. This response accompanies a Request for Continued Examination.

The number of claims in total and the number of independent claims have both been reduced by way of this amendment. Accordingly, no claim fees are due.

The applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his time discussing the present application with the applicant's agent on April 25 and 26, 2006, as evidenced by an interview summary dated May 2, 2006. Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with Examiner's suggested amendments.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for the use of the term 'independently' in claims 1, 8 and 21. The applicant has amended claims 1 and 21 to remove the phrases describing that the values of the parameters are obtained independently from each other and to remove the phrases describing that the independence of the calculations for the parameters. Additionally, the applicant has cancelled claims 8-20 without prejudice. Accordingly, the applicant submits that this rejection is no longer applicable.

During the interview the Examiner pointed out that, for the purposes of 35 U.S.C. 101, it would be in the applicant's interest to amend the claims to add that a report is created indicating the aberrancy of the financial instrument. The applicant has amended claim 1 accordingly. The applicant submits that claim 21 already includes similar language at (p) and accordingly does not need further amendment.

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Filed October 25, 2000
Art Unit No.: 3624

The applicant has further amended claim 1 at step (i) to indicate that the behavior of the financial instrument is identified as aberrant based on the total number of aberrant flags counted.

Separately, the applicant has amended claim 2 to clarify that the steps contained therein are conducted prior to creating the report.

The applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early review and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: August 3, 2006
B&P Ref. 12026-2
NH/pc